

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

November 21, 2006

On November 29, 2005, the Board of Supervisors instructed the Department of Health Services (DHS) in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Public Social Services, Department of Mental Health, and the Sheriff's Department to develop discharge policies and procedures of homeless patients from DHS hospitals. For over a year now, DHS has developed and implemented standardized policies for discharging homeless patients from DHS hospitals.

However, allegations of a DHS hospital inappropriately discharging a homeless patient have recently surfaced. According to DHS, personnel followed the appropriate procedures in discharging its patient. The assigned social worker sought to secure a recuperative bed for the patient prior to discharge, but no beds were immediately available. The Department planned to have the patient remain at the hospital until a recuperative bed was secured. However, the patient requested to be discharged to a hotel located in downtown Skid Row. DHS was required to respond favorably to the request and followed appropriate discharge policies and procedures by providing photo identification, a walker, and taxi transportation. Although DHS followed its procedures in this case, this is an opportunity to re-examine and potentially enhance our homeless patient discharge protocols.

MOTION

MOLINA _____

BURKE _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Department of Health Services to review and reassess current policies and procedures for discharging homeless patients, and provide additional recommendations if warranted for improving current DHS protocols, particularly in transportation services; and report back to the Board in 30 days.

CK: DHS HOMELESS DISCHARGE